

From: Williams-Solomon, Leilani [Leilani.Williams@boh.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:14 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Restore MOCA's Proposed Budget Cuts

Aloha,

This is an urgent plea to keep the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts' budget intact. Please do what it takes to keep this vital part of our community's arts and cultural programs thriving. At \$345,000, MOCA's funds are already quite limited, yet its impact is huge, particularly among the smaller non-profit and Hawaiian based organizations that do not have access to other funding sources. MOCA is often the seed money or that necessary few thousand dollars to get a new artist launched or a new creative project started. Through these projects, MOCA impacts thousands of people every year.

Creativity and the arts are vital to our community's psychological well being, but also to its economic vibrancy. Equally important is the value of MOCA's contributions to the preservation of the precious Hawaiian culture. Imagine Hawai'i without its music, without its hula, without its Hawaiian festivals. MOCA helps fund new projects in these areas every year. In our case MOCA provided a small grant to help our kumu release a cd of new and original Hawaiian music. The songs created with MOCA's help were sold at music stores throughout the state, were used in self-produced hula shows at Hawai'i Theatre and the neighbor islands, will be used at Merrie Monarch, have been taught to the Kamehameha Schools Children's' Choir and to workshop participants in New York City, and used in workshops for dozens of Japanese hula enthusiasts who come to Hawai'i specifically to learn from these kumu. The economic impact from that one cd project just keeps going, and the cultural preservation impact from creating and recording songs about today's events is immeasurable. And it all started with one small MOCA grant.

MOCA matters. Please please keep its budget intact.

Mahalo, Leilani

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